



## BEAUTIES WHO SKATE AND THE PRETTY THINGS THEY WEAR.

Patrons of Ponds and Rinks Made Happier by the Introduction of the Swedish Scissors and a Wonderful New Skate.

THE New York skating season is already in full swing, for skating in the metropolis is not a question of weather, but of amonion.

The only item the city skater need really consider is her costume. The ice, the crisp, cold air and the music are always awaiting her at the special rink to which she belongs. Skating is more fashionable at the present hour than bicycling, and the new St. Nicholas Skating Rink has become the rendezvous of the well-set that but a few weeks ago met to drink tea, chat and incidentally exercise only at the Metchuk Club.

Elaborate dressing is the rule rather than the exception for indoor skating. The surroundings all favor dressy toilets, for, with the absence of boisterous winds and variable weather, is a temperature freshly cold enough to admit of heavy clothes and furs, and the opportunity, so dear to feminine hearts, of "talking it all over" in the tea room before going home.

The novelty in skating costumes among the swell maids and matrons this year is harmony of color. The fantastic combinations of gay colors and gorgeous materials in vogue last year are no longer seen at the fashionable skating clubs.

One becoming color is selected and the entire costume, from hat to boots, is in keeping with the color scheme; even furs are brought in line, and the very shade of the fur matched in the dress goods.

Where a combination of black and white is to be effected the fur used is ermine, while an all-black suit is trimmed with astrakhan, lynx or Persian lamb. Seal is used with dark brown cloth, and mink with golden brown; chinchilla, soft and velvety, adorns all shades of gray, and odd-colored fox skins are introduced with tan. Lady's cloth is the preferred material for skating frocks. It can be moulded to the figure more perfectly, is more graceful and the richest substitute for velvet, which was so much worn last season.

The beautiful Miss Katherine Duer, who has a varied reputation as the bridemaid of a Duchess, a Horse Show belle and accomplished athlete, is one of the finest skaters of the St. Nicholas Club members.

The costume which she wore at the hockey match between

the Union and Knickerbocker teams one night last week, which was really a society event, was a symphony in gray. The skirt and waist were of soft gray cloth, and the fur trimmings was chinchilla. The hat, which seemed as a setting for the dark-haired beauty, was a gray velvet Gainsborough, rich with plumes. Miss Virginia Fair, who is famous for her century run at Newport and her millions, watched the

hockey match with Miss Duer. These two society girls are inseparable friends and are nearly always seen together at social functions as well as in private life.

Miss Fair's costume was novel, striking and vastly becoming. With her light skating skirt she wore a white silk waist and a huge bunch of red roses.

Her hat was a Tam o' Shanter of bright red velvet, trimmed with a green bird and scarlet poppies. The "Tam" was worn over the forehead, and was one of the prettiest, most dashing bits of headgear seen at the rink this season.

Another spectator at an exciting game last week was Mrs. Anson Phelps Stokes. Brown was her color, slightly relieved with white and touched with gold. Set in the full brown skirt was a front breadth of white satin, bordered with gold. A small carriage bonnet, in which the brown and white was repeated in satin and velvet, feathers, and flowers, repeated the toilet.

An ardent adherent of every variety of athletic sport, and hence a

tee from melting will also admit of furs in profusion, and the indoor skater would as soon think of relinquishing her skates as her furs. From her huge rolling collar to her fur-trimmed skirt she is equipped for the winter solstice as carefully as though planning for a long sweep over English fens or Swedish marshes.

So popular has skating become in the past few years that occasionally whole families from the fashionable world are met at the rink together, skimming gaily about, sweeping the length of the room in a few long, graceful curves or practicing new skating steps to the music.

Mrs. Ogden Mills, who has mastered every intricate figure of which the shining steels are capable, has two pretty little daughters, who usually accompany her. They are both accomplished skaters and splendidly athletic.

Mrs. Burke-Roché skates with her two sons, Jolly little fellows who are strong of limb and equal to the most elaborate "outer edge."

Mrs. Cornelius Vanderbilt is a member of the St. Nicholas Club, fond of skating, especially as prac-



MISS VIRGINIA FAIR

## HATS

MISS FANNIE TAILOR

would drag the material and spoil the jaunty effect.

In this instance the purse is carried inside the bag, and the flowers, which are an indispensable accessory of every skating toilet, are pinned on the fur collar at the left side—close against the throat.

A shock for girls who envy the high wages received by graduate nurses is found in the statement that a woman who enters upon such a career lessens her chances of life by an average of twenty-one years.

## WALTZING ON THE ICE.

"Swedish Scissors" Is the Name of the Very Latest Figure.

Waltzing on the tip of the toe and cutting the Swedish scissors, a figure recently introduced by European skaters, are the achievements most sought after by experts on the ice. To skate masterly, a matter of skill, is not regarded as giving sufficient a suit the tastes of those who strive to stand in the first ranks. The waltz, while difficult, is learned by many, and requires only perseverance, but the scissors, according to an eminent instructor, is one of the most trying feats known.

All really fine skating is done to music, and what is known simply as the promenade is in reality a two-step, which must be executed with precision and nicety to get a good effect. The outer edge and the cross roll are the first fancy steps taught, but familiarity with them is supposed to make all future effort comparatively simple, and with two-step music the schottische or waltz is appropriate, and is used. Once a woman can execute these steps with ease she is on the high road to become an expert, and to reach that state of perfection which allows of a long continued waltz during which only her toes must touch the ice.

An elaborate figure known as the grapevine is also much in vogue and much thought of. To describe it, or, indeed, any other figure, is almost an impossibility, but the looker-on has an impression of a series of graceful curves, twisted and intertwined, that are not inaptly named. Few women, it is said, learn the figure to perfection, but those who do make a graceful picture that has a rare charm. In fact, an hour spent as a looker-on at any one of the indoor rinks shows many attractive scenes.

The scissors has, as yet, been cut by but few. Even to the expert it is a difficult task, and the instructor himself admits that it was a fix upon his rare skill. Nevertheless it is the thing to do, perhaps because of its very difficulty, is the goal of all ambitious fancy skaters.

tised in Paris on the roof gardens.

Another family of children who enjoy skating with a very big and athletic mamma are the Gould boys. Mrs. George Gould and her sons go in for every variety of sport, from cross-country riding to skating, and from gymnasium practice to cutting their initials in fancy figures on the frozen Hudson.

## ANOTHER NOVELTY IN BAGS.

Skating bags are a novelty this year—a dashing, pretty novelty—and a great convenience as well.

They are worn suspended from the arm, like old-fashioned shopping bags, and are large or small, to suit the taste of the wearer, and always in colors, to harmonize with the skating costume.

The girl who makes the mistake of tucking away her skates out of sight in her bag proves herself entirely out of the spirit of the new fashion.

The uses of the real skating bag are of a finer nature. Within, in its quilted satin depth, rests a gossamer veil of a pocket handkerchief, a silver box of hairpins, a bottle of smelling salts, a tiny cut-glass eccentricity, containing her favorite scent, and, most important of all, an ivory tablet on which she inscribes the names of her skating partners.

The skating programme is especially in vogue at the city ice rinks, where music is the order by day and night, and where the selecting of partners to skate over the frozen Croton is attended by the formalities and ceremonies of a fashionable drawing room.

Various materials are employed in making skating bags. Satin or velvet to match the costume is often seen; but the prettiest and most durable bags are made of fur, finished off with long tails and richly lined with bright-hued satin.

A purse is set in one side of the fur bag and the other is supplied with a silver or gold clasp, with which the Winter maiden holds her bunch of violets or long-stemmed roses.

A ribbon or cord is run through the top of the bag, gathering it shut and ending in loops which are swung over the wrist.

If the bag is made of wool or silk the flower clasp and pocketbook are omitted, as they

member of the St. Nicholas Skating Club, is Mrs. Hermann Oelrichs, who is an exceedingly pretty woman, with a charming grace of manner.

Her favorite skating toilet is violet, rich in hue and chic in style. A square violet toque, fitted to the hair, and set off with a large aligrette, is the accompanying hat, which is little more than a decoration for the hair.

Amid all the wealth of color at the rink, the bright green suits, the blues, purples and reds, the all black gowns of Miss Stinson stand out as distinct and unique as though the costume of another country. This simplicity of attire extends even to her hats, which, though extremely stylish, are all black, whether of birds, ribbons or flowers.

Skating gloves do not differ materially this season from the ordinary heavy street gloves. Where the gown is of subdued colors the gloves match exactly, otherwise tan, brown and dull reds are in vogue.

As skating skirts are short, from three to five inches from the ground, skating boots are fatter than ever. The Russian boot is the favorite; of a leather which matches the gown in color, they lace half-way to the knees, are trimmed with fur and finished with tassels. Plain black boots are worn with bright costumes, but with quieter shades the leather should match the dress goods.

Strange to say, veils are worn at the indoor rinks. Dressy veils, such as are seen for carriage wear, have the preference. The absence of sun and wind is but as the meatest trifle against the universal becomingness. A temperature in the rinks which will prevent the use of gauze veiling.

## THE NEW SKATE THAT HAS SET SKATERS TALKING.

The new skate is the English Fen running skate, whose curved toe admits of more jewels than the ordinary sort. The straps are of finest leather, and show buckles of silver; but while the Fen shape admits of such elaborate treatment it is not essential, and the model is steadily gaining favor in the plainest of nickel, with only good, stanch fastenings.

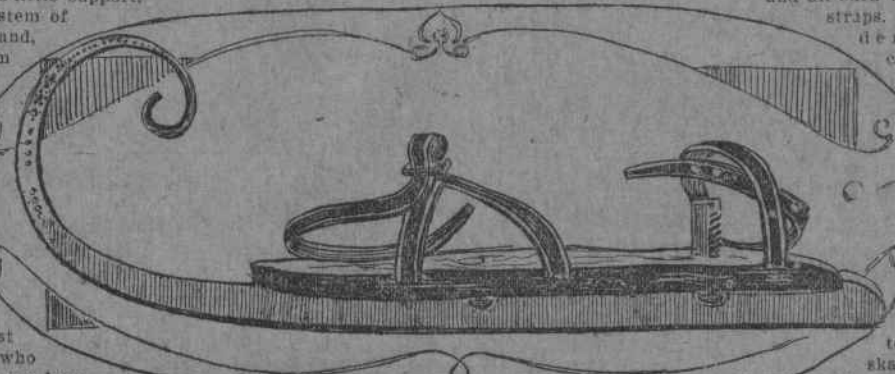
many women to give too little support.

lish model, with its system of women, on the other hand, from straps, but from taken up by the

riding skate, which and has scarcely weight. This model contrast to the severely plain, and with a blade from two inches long. But adherence from the

run to neither the club model, truly an adjustable heel, to be made perfectly fast shoe. And as women who women who skate for grace have

sensible shoes, there is little difficulty to be overcome. The clamps once made firm are entirely satisfactory, and there is far greater freedom of movement possible than when the foot or ankle is bound with straps. Riching and fancy decoration may, of course, run the price up to a big sum, but as good a model as need be worn can be bought for the modest price of \$4.



Latest Hats Seen at the Rink.



Parisian Idea for a Skating Gown.